

RESUME OF WORK BY LEGISLATURE

DOINGS OF REGULAR SESSION
AS WELL AS OF BOTH
EXTRIES.

OVER THOUSAND INTRODUCED

Administration and Many Other Measures Passed By Each of the Three.—The Governor Pleased.

PASSED AT REGULAR SESSION.

Of the 1,000 measures introduced in both branches of the Thirty-First Legislature during the regular session which ended March 13, 246 were passed. One hundred and thirty-four of these were purely local measures.

There were introduced in the Senate 22 bills, ten joint resolutions and ten concurrent resolutions; in the House 617 bills, twenty-nine joint resolutions and twelve concurrent resolutions.

On the 110 general measures passed, four were proposed constitutional amendments, which are to be voted upon by the people on the second Tuesday in August. One of these is to validate bonds and another is to validate school districts that have been brought into question by the Court; another is to establish a home for Confederate women, and the fourth is to authorize the incorporation of towns of 2,500 or more inhabitants by special charter.

Administration's Measures.
The most notable measures passed, which might be construed as administrative, are the bills providing for an investigation of the penitentiary system; for the codification of the laws of the State; amending the anti-secession law so as to exempt notaries public and persons who have been in the State service five years, and providing penalties for the sending of defamatory anonymous letters. It will be remembered that about two months ago Gov. Campbell received some such letter and endeavored to locate the authors through the ranger force.

Other measures which fall in almost the same category are those to establish a sanitarium for the tubercular patients, a cotton bagging factory in the penitentiary system, a State Normal school in West Texas, a library commission, a State juvenile training school, a bureau of labor, creating the office of mining inspector, creating three judicial districts, allowing certain district judges expense accounts, and increasing the salary of the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds.

Of Constructive Sort.
Important measures of the constructive sort are those providing for a topographical survey of the water sheds of the State and authorizing the formation of levee, drainage and navigation districts.

Apart from the establishment of a new normal school, the most important educational measures passed are those requiring the teaching of agriculture in the normal schools and of cotton classing at the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The only important tax measures enacted outside of those of a regulatory nature and those pertaining to insurance is that which limits the permit fee of foreign corporations, the immediate purpose of which was to induce foreign loan companies to remain in the State.

Insurance Laws Altered.
The insurance laws were importantly changed through the amendment of the insurance investment law, the codification of the laws relating to insurance companies other than life, and the enactment of a law requiring such insurance companies to deposit securities with the State for the protection of their policy holders.

The only important measures affecting public health are the new pure food law and the law to regulate the practice of nursing.

Quite a number of laws affecting railways were passed. Perhaps the most important of these was the bill which subjects companies to the payment of attorneys' fees in damage suits of not more than \$200, where payment has been refused and where the amount sued for is recovered, and also the bill requiring such companies to repair their equipment in Texas.

Moral Measures.
In the list of "moral measures" the anti-race betting bill stands at the head, and is followed by measures designed to prohibit the sale of frosty and the solicitation of liquor orders in local option territory; also the bill prohibiting the delivery of liquor to minors, the anti-railroad bill and the bill authorizing wholesale druggists in dry territory to sell alcohol to minors.

In Political Line.
In the political line there are two notable measures, one which adds three counties to the Fifteenth Congressional District, so as to make it safer Democratic, and the other which authorizes towns of 10,000 or more inhabitants to adopt the commission form of government.

The Governor's recommendation to the Legislature at the opening of the regular session included all the plat-form demands. Of these, three have been enacted, one by submission of constitutional amendments validating state bonds and districts; another, at least, by the passage of a regulating salt water fishing, and by the submission of the Con-Women's Home constitution.

which have not been enacted are the demand for the adoption of the State-wide prohibition and the recommendation of a deposit guarantee, a compensation of legal expenses of court procedure, of experimental stations of more authority e health department

and the regulation of mail and pipelines companies.

Governor's Recommendations.

The Governor made a number of other recommendations which were not platform demands. Of these the following have been enacted into law:

Provision for investigation of penitentiary affairs, giving effect to school tax amendment, repeal of pension act as to Confederate pensions, codification of insurance laws, amendment of insurance investment law, amendment of anti-secession law, prohibiting frosty joints and cold storage, giving effect to the school tax amendment and providing a new road improvement law to take place of the defective one passed by the Thirtieth Legislature.

List of Bills Passed.

House Joint Resolution No. 5—Submitting proposal Constitutional amendment to validate Independent School District bonds. This and all other Constitutional amendments are to be voted upon by the people on the second Tuesday in August, 1908.

H. J. R. 6—Validating school districts and providing for formation of same. A Constitutional amendment to be voted upon as above.

H. J. R. 7—Submitting proposed Constitutional amendments providing for establishment of Confederate Women's Home.

Senate Bill No. 1—Making appropriation to pay mileage and per diem of members of Legislature.

S. B. No. 2—Making appropriation to pay contingent expenses of Thirty-First Legislature.

S. B. No. 3—Providing for taxation in towns which have surrendered incorporation.

S. B. No. 15—Providing that the Supreme Court in transferring cases from one Court of Civil Appeals to another shall transfer them to the court nearest the counties from which appeals were taken.

S. B. No. 16—Regulating bulk sales of merchandise.

S. B. No. 19—Making an appropriation for a cotton bagging factory which Penitentiary Commissioners are authorized to establish.

S. B. No. 23—Creating Sixty-Eighth Judicial District in Dallas County.

S. B. No. 29—Locating Court of Criminal Appeals at Austin.

S. B. No. 48—Authorizing formation of navigation districts.

S. B. No. 47—Making appropriation to pay Presidential electors.

S. B. No. 49—Requiring railroads to equip locomotives with ash pans.

S. B. No. 50—To establish a tuberculosis sanitarium.

S. B. No. 57—Giving effect to Constitutional amendment authorizing \$500 tax in common school districts.

S. B. No. 62—Making it a crime to send defamatory anonymous letters.

S. B. No. 67—Creating Sixty-Ninth Judicial District in Midland country.

S. B. No. 43—Requiring railroads to use same names as postoffices for stations.

S. B. No. 59—Providing for drainage districts.

S. B. No. 103—Giving towns and cities the right to condemn right of way for sewers, etc.

S. B. No. 110—Prohibiting use of vulgar or profane language over telephone lines.

S. B. No. 115—Authorizing purchase of Larimer papers.

S. B. No. 117—Requiring railroads to employ only men with certain experience to operate trains.

S. B. No. 121—Providing that judgment may be taken in Justice Courts at first terms against non-residents cited by publication.

S. B. No. 128—Extending time for railroads to construct lines.

S. B. No. 172—Authorizing counties of more than 50,000 to issue bonds for viaducts, etc.

S. B. No. 143—Prohibiting the wearing of badges of certain orders by non-members.

S. B. No. 137—Providing a lien for mechanics for wages.

S. B. No. 158—Providing for an investigation of the penitentiary system by a committee, composed of four members of the Senate and 3 members of the House, to begin their investigation after adjournment.

S. B. No. 171—Authorizing investments of school funds in bonds of common school districts.

S. B. No. 173—Making the law uniform as to District Attorneys' fees.

S. B. No. 183—Amending anti-secession law so as to exempt notaries public and persons who have been in the State service five years or more in service of the State.

S. B. No. 187—Battling Galveston causeway contract.

S. B. No. 238—Authorizing the formation of levee districts to prevent overflows.

S. B. No. 248—Requiring railroads to place "full crew" on trains.

House Bill No. 5—Establishing a State normal school west of the nine-eighth meridian.

H. B. No. 10—Making theft from person a felony.

H. B. No. 54—Requiring railroads to repair equipment in Texas.

H. B. No. 66—Levying a high occupation tax on frosty joints, etc.

H. B. No. 69—Levying a high occupation tax on the solicitation of orders for liquor in dry territory.

H. B. No. 78—Amending county and city depository law so as to permit depositories to deposit in lieu of real estate or surety company bonds, the bonds of the United States, the State, etc.

H. B. No. 89—Prohibiting bookmaking, pool-selling, betting and wagering on horse racing.

H. B. No. 100—Creating a Bureau of Labor.

H. B. No. 127—Requiring railroads to provide sheds for car repairing.

H. B. No. 142—Establishing a Library Commission.

H. B. No. 152—Appropriating \$50,000 to refund liquor dealers' license.

H. B. No. 168—Anti-black list law.

H. B. No. 221—Requiring railroads to equip cars with safety appliances.

Same as Federal statute.

H. B. No. 246—Making an appropriation to pay deficiencies of the State Government for past two years.

H. B. No. 251—To validate sale of Atascosa County lands.

H. B. No. 256—Establishing a maximum permit for foreign loan and other foreign corporations, the effect being to reduce the fee of large corporations which were about to withdraw from the State.

H. B. No. 265—Creating the Sev-

entieth Judicial District in the Panhandle.

Governor's Recommendations.

The Governor made a number of other recommendations which were not platform demands. Of these the following have been enacted into law:

Provision for investigation of penitentiary affairs, giving effect to school tax amendment, repeal of pension act as to Confederate pensions, codification of insurance laws, amendment of insurance investment law, amendment of anti-secession law, prohibiting frosty joints and cold storage, giving effect to the school tax amendment and providing a new road improvement law to take place of the defective one passed by the Thirtieth Legislature.

H. B. No. 296—Exempting Montgomery County from squirrel law.

H. B. No. 410—Increasing pay of County Commissioners.

H. B. No. 478—Authorizing the purchase of the papers of John H. Reagan.

H. B. No. 1—Authorizing cities to own land for waterworks, etc.

H. B. No. 27—Entitling claimants against railroads for \$200 or less to recover attorney's fees where railroad has refused to settle without suit and the amount sued for is recovered.

H. B. No. 28—An amended pure food law.

H. B. No. 29—Amendment to Robertson insurance law, striking out provisions authorizing Commissioner of Insurance to waive any part of act; strikes out requirement that securities shall be deposited; gives life insurance companies ten years in which to complete investment of 75 per cent of Texas reserves in Texas securities; establishes a graduated tax proportionate to the investments, running from 3 per cent down to 1½ per cent, this tax to be in lieu of all other taxes; strike out provision requiring securities to be at par; leaves to the courts the settlement of questions as to whether companies which withdrew from State shall pay taxes for period they were out of the State in the event they shall return.

H. B. No. 146—Providing a salary for Mining Inspector.

H. B. No. 182—Providing for revision, codification and annotation of statutes.

H. B. No. 232—Prohibiting delivery of liquor to minors.

H. B. No. 270—Providing for teaching agriculture in normal school.

H. B. No. 295—Prohibiting the driving of sheep over public roads or the lands of another without consent.

H. B. No. 236—Permitting foreign corporations to pay franchise taxes by Sept. 1, 1909.

H. B. No. 448—Placing Bee, Bandera and Terrell Counties in the Fifteenth Congressional District.

H. B. No. 452—Authorizing wholesale druggists in dry territory to sell alcohol to retailers.

H. B. No. 472—Providing local option as to hide and animal inspection.

H. B. No. 490—Exempt Bell County from Auditor law.

H. B. No. 513—Amending election law as to procedure in contests.

H. B. No. 517—Providing pay for County Commissioners as road superintendents.

H. B. No. 214—Authorizing railway express and telegraph companies to contract for exchange of service.

House Bill No. 35—Prohibiting raf-fle.

H. B. No. 173—Providing for plumbing inspection.

H. B. No. 217—Amending Confederate pension law relating to application as not to require the oath of dependency, etc.

H. B. No. 227—Increasing salary superintendent of public buildings and grounds from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

H. B. No. 229—Levying high occupation tax on sale of cannon crackers.

H. B. No. 230—Providing for teaching of cotton classing at A. & M. College.

H. B. No. 297—Providing for taking and perpetuation of evidence relating to services of six Confederates so as to entitle them to pension.

H. B. No. 447—Giving Commissioner of Agriculture additional power in the matter of preventing fruit tree diseases.

H. B. No. 456—Prescribing penalties for abandonment after marriage in case of seduction.

H. B. No. 476—Requiring railroads to provide sanitary facilities at stations.

H. B. No. 492—Fixing fee for filing annual statement Printers Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association.

H. B. No. 524—Increasing pay of jail guards.

H. B. No. 527—Providing for taking of evidence relating to services of six Confederates so as to entitle them to pension.

H. B. No. 531—The nine-juror bill, the guaranty of deposits, etc.

H. B. No. 537—The full rendition amendment bill and the 2c per cent.

H. B. No. 546—Prescribing penalties for abandonment after marriage in case of seduction.

H. B. No. 476—Requiring railroads to provide sanitary facilities at stations.

H. B. No. 492—Fixing fee for filing annual statement Printers Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association.

H. B. No. 524—Increasing pay of jail guards.

H. B. No. 527—Providing for taking of evidence relating to services of six Confederates so as to entitle them to pension.

H. B. No. 531—The nine-juror bill, the guaranty of deposits, etc.

H. B. No. 537—The full rendition amendment bill and the 2c per cent.

H. B. No. 546—Prescribing penalties for abandonment after marriage in case of seduction.